

California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Editor: Sarah E. Foster, (213) 259-9580

February 1987

Libertarians to Meet in Bay Area LPC ANNUAL CONVENTION

February's main event is CAL-LIB '87, as Libertarians from all over California head for the Bay Area and the annual LPC Convention, scheduled for Feb. 13-16 at the Clarion Hotel in Milbrae near the San Francisco Airport.

This is an important Convention for we'll be electing delegates to the National Convention in Seattle where the presidential candidate for 1988 will be nominated. (Former Congressman Ron Paul is being urged to be the LP standard bearer. He'll be the speaker at the Sam Adams Luncheon).

• **Speakers:** Convention coordinators Fred Stitt and Linda Torno have assembled a great lineup of speakers: Milton Friedman, Nathaniel Branden, Ron Paul, Ed Clark, David Bergland, John Hospers, Robert Poole, Murray Rothbard, Andre Marrou, Poul Anderson, Marshall Fritz, Philip Mitchell, and many others. The theme is *Scenarios of Freedom*.

• **Events:** There'll be such special events as an Informal Reception honoring Libertarian Candidates of 1986; a First-Nighter Party to greet presidential candidates Ed Clark and David Bergland; not one, but *two* banquets, with honored guest speakers Nathaniel Branden (Saturday night), and Rose and Milton Friedman (Sunday night). You won't want to miss the reception and autograph party (Sunday evening), or the Libertarian Cabaret, emceed by Michael Emerling and Craig Franklin, following the Sunday night banquet. Want to get funding for a research or publication project? You'll find out how at the seminar on "The Impact of Libertarian Think Tanks and Foundations."

• **Samuel Adams Luncheon:** Who'll receive the Sons of Liberty Award for being the candidate who best expressed libertarian goals and ideals? The coveted award will be presented at the annual Sam Adams Award Luncheon hosted by former state chair Jack Dean on Monday. This is the event where all the candidates are specially honored for their efforts during the campaign.

• **Prices:** There's a wide range of prices for the various packages, no matter what your income or status—whether you're a "rushed executive," an "impoverished student," or an "urbane intellectual."

• **Who to Call:** For information about prices, program, accommodations, etc., contact Linda Torno, (415) 254-9393; or write: Guidelines, Box 456, Orinda, 94563.

BY-LAWS AND PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Scheduled from noon till 5:00 on Friday, these meetings are held in open session. Anyone wishing to have a plank or by-law incorporated into the Platform or the Constitution and By-Laws should submit it for consideration by the appropriate committee. The best way is to have copies distributed to committee members and delegates well ahead of time—not dropped like a snapping turtle on the floor of the Convention among unexpected delegates—which is an exciting approach, true, and guaranteed to get a response, but not the most effective way to insure its passage.

As of press-time, Platform Committee chair Steve Krueger does not have a complete list of Platform Committee reps, but looks forward to seeing new faces on the Committee and receiving fresh input on the Platform. Suggestions for changes and planks can be sent to him and/or to local Platform Committee reps (check with your regional chair). Steve Krueger's address is: P.O. Box 3322, Huntington Beach, 92695.

It's also a good idea to send along enough copies to go around the Committee (at least 20), and they should be typewritten.

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Almodovar Still Waiting

Norma Jean Almodovar, LPC candidate for lieutenant governor, is still awaiting the decision of the judges which heard the arguments of the district attorney's office Dec. 15. As *CLNews* reported last month, a judgment can be handed down at any time up to 90 days after the hearing, which—if it goes against Norma Jean—could result in her immediate imprisonment on charges, supposedly, of pandering, but in fact, for her daring to write about the LAPD.

Outraged at this and two other misdirections of justice, attorney Ben Stein, who is also a columnist for the *L.A. Herald Examiner*, wrote a blistering attack on Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner for his vicious abuse of the power of his office. Mr. Stein specifically cited the McMartin Preschool case, the Bobbi Fiedler sting operation (which cost Ms. Fiedler her bid for U.S. Senate), and the arrest and litigation against Norma Jean—the real purpose of which was not lost on him. His excellent article is reprinted, in part, on page 4.

Notes and News from the Regions

Wanted: Who's Who Info

Elections for local LPC officers are usually held at the January or March regional meetings. *CLNews* would like to publish the results in the April issue so libertarians and regional officers up and down the state will be able to contact each other easily. Please send the names, addresses and phone numbers of all your regional officers, including executive committee reps., to *CLNews*, 777 Terrace 49, Los Angeles, 90042.

Here and There

SAN DIEGO COUNTY: The San Diego Libertarian Party's membership has topped the 200 mark—that's more than double what it was last year at this time and rapidly closing the gap on Santa Clara County.

San Diego has also begun an out-reach project—Bouquets and Brickbat Awards—for the recognition of good guys and bad guys: the good guys being people who deserve congratulations for promoting the cause of liberty, the bad guys being those who have done the reverse and deserve condemnation. Unfortunately, those in the latter category were far easier to find. A brickbat is defined as "a fragment of a hard material (as a brick), an uncomplimentary remark."

First recipients were Dick Rutan, one of the pilots of the *Voyager* (a bouquet), while California state senator Wadie Deddeh and Assemblyman Peter Chacon were awarded brickbats. See why, on page five.

SONOMA COUNTY: Chair Jim Oglesby reports growing enthusiasm in Sonoma County. Libertarians are holding monthly meetings (three so far), and a rent control committee has been formed for involvement in local rent control issues. A number of such committees will eventually be formed, for, as Jim puts it, "We have a lot of issues in this county," and adds, "We're really revved up now. The newsletter has been revived (it's been defunct since 1981), but we'll be taking things one step at a time. We want to get away from debating among ourselves and begin to act to change things locally—then people who have left the party will come back. Now's the time to change."

Jim's address is: 822 Robinson Road, Sebastopol, 95472. Tele: 707/823-5261.

LAKE COUNTY: The Lake County Board of Supervisors, in an effort to head off a referendum drive spearheaded by LP county chair Randall Grindle, has appointed an 11-person Zoning Ordinance Citizens' Review Committee, which has nine-weeks to hammer out a revised ordinance with offensive language removed and pro-property rights concepts incorporated. Of course, Randall is on the Committee, and he reports it is amazing how you can get bureaucrats to back off if you just confront them—but you do have to become very deeply involved.



REGION 61 (San Fernando Valley): Secretary Nancy Neale reports on the Region's newly inaugurated *Newsmakers Project*: LP members will scan local newspapers for folks unknown to the party, who get pro-freedom letters, op-ed pieces, and articles published. "These will be contacted and invited to a free dinner at our supper club," says Nancy.

REGION 67 (East San Gabriel Valley): A special fund has been set up for donations contributed towards a booth at the L.A. County Fair, which is the largest event of its kind in the country. For several years the LP had a booth, but then the entry fee and insurance costs were raised significantly, and Fair authorities passed a requirement that a booth had to be staffed at all times or the lessee would be subject to a horrendous fine. "All times" meant no booth could be left unattended longer than 10 minutes.

The cost and staffing requirement seemed to make LP participation impractical, but that view has changed, and Region 67 is actively soliciting donations to ensure our presence there in 1988. If the John Birch Society, AIP, and Peace and Freedom can raise enough money and muster sufficient enthusiasm to ensure the required staffing for their booths, there's no reason why the LP can't.

Donations should be sent to chair Gail Lightfoot, P.O. Box 3207, San Dimas, 91773.

California Libertarian News (CLNews) is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained therein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

Please send regional news, calendar items, photos, non-member subscriptions (see below), and other material to:

Sarah E. Foster, Editor
777 Terrace 49
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(213) 259-9580

Subscription and Advertising Rates: Non-member subscriptions to *CLNews* are available for \$15 per year, bulk mail. Checks should be made payable to the LPC. Subscriptions are included as a membership benefit when you join the Libertarian Party of California (see membership form on page five). For advertising rates and specifications, contact Sarah Foster.

Election Results Analyzed

Part Two of Two Parts

Last month *CLNews* published a report by Neal Donner, chair of Region 62, analyzing the results of the recent election, by comparing vote totals of LP candidates across the state with the results in 1984, and examining how we stood up against the other two minor parties. Neal was not only a candidate himself, he took over as county coordinator for the LONG ACTIVE project, initiated by Bob Lehman, when Bob had to leave California for Florida (see Sept., *CLNews*). Below is his evaluation of the project's results.

The LONG ACTIVE Project

Neal Donner

First, to recapitulate. Highlights of the 1986 election included:

- We defeated the other minor parties in four of the seven statewide races (governor, attorney general, treasurer, and controller).
- Anti-Zschau forces, hoping to syphon conservative votes from Zschau, courted LP candidate Breck McKinley with possible campaign financing in the closely contested U.S. Senate race, garnering him valuable media attention when he refused the offer.
- San Franciscan Bonnie Hoy got 4.8% for state senate. Seven other Libertarians received over 3%.

Perhaps the most interesting election data is the effect of the LONG ACTIVE project. This plan, initiated by longtime LP activist Bob Lehman, was to identify the 2,100 Los Angeles County residents who voted in the June primary and find among them hundreds of activists willing to distribute thousands of pieces of literature to independent voters in the weeks prior to the November election.

Bob's stated goals, to find new activists and to increase the

membership of the LPC, was largely achieved. Virtually all 2,100 people who voted Libertarian in the June Primary were identified from precinct books at the county registrar during June. During the First Wave in August, six regional coordinators and 68 area captains were recruited. They worked to distribute a copy of the *LP News* to all Libertarian primary voters in 200 of 250 selected zip codes. At this point the project was a success: mobilizing scores of activists and rallying a great deal of volunteer effort.

The primary voters who had received a newspaper were then phoned and asked to distribute the same newspaper to independent voters in their own precinct. It was underestimated how difficult it would be to get people to do "cold calling" for this phase. Still, two regions were successful at calling practically all primary voters with listed phone numbers. The response was gratifying. Of those finally contacted, a third agreed to participate, a third said they might be willing to donate time or money at some other time, and a third simply said no. We discovered the valuable insight that phoning to get support for a particular project generates a positive response rate at least ten times that of bulk mail.

We have gained enormously valuable experience and insight from the project. LONG ACTIVE was a successful experiment, insofar as its purpose was to mobilize activists. More than 150 activists participated during the course of the project. Some primary voters have already become LP members for the first time, and others are more likely to do so in the future now that they have gotten to know our organization a little better. We found a strong willingness to contribute. The project was fundamentally grass-roots financed.

At another level, however, our results fell short of the desired objective. Certainly every activist we recruited hoped

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Convention

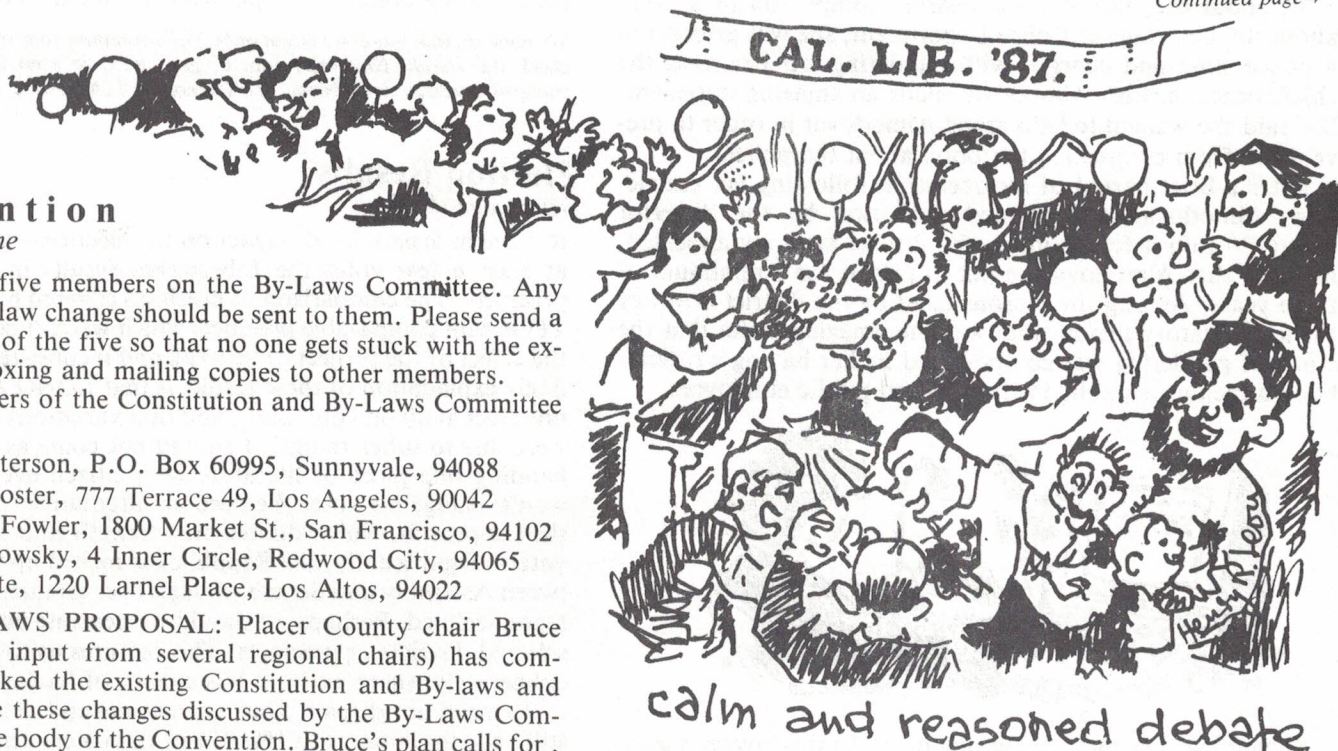
from page one

There are five members on the By-Laws Committee. Any proposed by-law change should be sent to them. Please send a copy to each of the five so that no one gets stuck with the expense of xeroxing and mailing copies to other members.

The members of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee are:

Brian Esterson, P.O. Box 60995, Sunnyvale, 94088
Sarah Foster, 777 Terrace 49, Los Angeles, 90042
Michael Fowler, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, 94102
Lyn Sapowsky, 4 Inner Circle, Redwood City, 94065
Bill White, 1220 Larnel Place, Los Altos, 94022

NEW BY-LAWS PROPOSAL: Placer County chair Bruce Daniel (with input from several regional chairs) has completely reworked the existing Constitution and By-laws and plans to have these changes discussed by the By-Laws Committee and the body of the Convention. Bruce's plan calls for, among other things, a complete reorganization of the party's structure. The function of the Executive Committee would be changed, with greater authority and responsibility concentrated at the regional level through the Assembly of Chairs. The state would be divided into three regions instead of two as it is at present—all changes he believes are necessary for the party to be more effective in the political arena.



Bruce will be mailing his proposal first class to all members of the LPC during the last week of January, so all delegates will be certain to have a copy. Please let him and the members of the By-Laws Committee know what you think. Objections? Approval? Modifications? His address is: P.O. Box 165, Loomis, 95650.

Ira Reiner's Use of Law

Ben Stein

Taking a cue from San Diego County in awarding bouquets and brickbats, *CLNews* believes Ira Reiner is particularly deserving of the second item, while Ben Stein is worthy of the best of bouquets for his observations.

The role of law in a free society is delicate indeed. The law must be strong enough to facilitate the resolution of disputes according to principle, yet it must be flexible enough to absorb new law when new cases and new conflicts arise. In the criminal area, it must be strong enough to protect the rights of the innocent, yet it must remove itself from areas where its application would serve to inhibit the innocent exercise of guaranteed rights. The law is so powerful and so far-reaching in its effects that a generous measure of restraint and delicacy is almost as important as firmness and persistence.

These thoughts come to mind in the new year because, to be frank, I am concerned about our Los Angeles District Attorney, Ira Reiner, and his staff. It is possible that they need to rethink their use of law as an instrument to shape their own careers, further their own political goals, and harass their enemies. Instead, they might want to begin thinking about law in more traditional, narrower ways.

Stein first describes the travesty of the McMartin case, followed by an appraisal of the sting operation against Bobbi Fiedler, commenting, "...this was a disgrace to the whole meaning of law in a free society." He concludes with a discussion of the Norma Jean case.

The strange case of Norma Jean Almodovar is not as well known as that of Bobbi Fiedler or McMartin, but it, too, is extremely unfortunate in its abusive use of law.

Norma Jean Almodovar was for almost 10 years a traffic policewoman in Los Angeles. About five years ago, she left the force to become a call girl.

At about the time she was nearing completion of a book about the Los Angeles Police Department, she was arrested in a police sting and charged with pandering. At her trial, the chief witness against Almodovar made an amazing statement. She said she wanted to help arrest Almodovar in order to prevent her from completing her book about the police.

After a brief period of incarceration following her conviction, Almodovar was granted probation by the Superior Court. Within a few months, the district attorney appealed, insisting that Almodovar be put in prison for a minimum of three years. Among the reasons cited by the district attorney for a mandatory prison term was the amazing claim that the crime of pandering was compounded by her having written a book attacking a public institution and public employees.



Something is desperately wrong here. To this lawyer's eyes, Almodovar was not arrested for pandering at all. She was arrested, charged and put in prison to keep her from completing a book about clearly important matters of public policy. You may agree or disagree with her criticisms of the police department—and I have not seen the specifics, since the manuscript was seized by the police—but you must allow her to speak. If

she can be charged with a crime solely—or even partly—to keep her from airing her views about the police department, the First Amendment is completely meaningless.

The district attorney is apparently deeply confused about what the Constitution even means. He went on record in a brief as saying that Almodovar should be thrown in jail not only for pandering but also for daring to criticize the government.

Mr. Reiner, take note, please: Norma Jean Almodovar must be *protected*, not prosecuted for speaking out on public-policy issues. You may think she is kooky. But for you to say that free speech compounds a felony is completely wrong. I respectfully suggest that your entire argument for conviction and imprisonment is fatally flawed by even mentioning that your goal is to keep Almodovar from exercising her free-speech rights. I hope the court will read that brief and be shocked by it.



Mr. Reiner, the law is a powerful instrument. For you to use it to make headlines, to advance your career, to curry favor with the LAPD at the expense of basic rights of free speech, free elections, and constitutional guarantees is frighteningly illegal. I hope that the new year will mark a return to lawful procedures among the people who enforce the law.

We hope so, too, but don't count on it. For a complete copy of Stein's article, check the *Herald Examiner*, Jan. 6, page A15; or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to *CLNews*, 777 Terrace 49, L.A., 90042.

Election Results

from page three

to have at least a local impact on the election—to increase by at least a few votes the Libertarian results in the targeted precincts. The comparison of precincts covered by LONG ACTIVE with comparable precincts which weren't covered shows the effect of the project to be weak and inconsistent. The most likely explanation of these results is that LONG ACTIVE had no effect at all on vote totals, and that variations in vote totals were due to other things. It should not come as a shock that handing one piece of literature to a citizen every two years won't change his vote. We need an alternative to this scatter-shot approach, which dilutes our strength in a sea of hostile voters. Significantly, the Republicans picked up five seats between Assembly and Senate, though over all their vote percentages declined. Perhaps we should concentrate our strength on selected districts or precincts. This requires us to neglect areas deliberately where we have less chance of having an impact.

We need not despair. Our activists are still determined. We still have the support of 1%–5% of the voters across the state. Our moral and intellectual resources are enormous. But if we want to effect political change, we must agree on and carry out strategies to get us noticed by the electronic media, and hence get us taken seriously by Joe Voter, at least in some electoral districts. We have been amateurs long enough. Are we willing to become pros?

Bouquets and Brickbats from San Diego

San Diego Libertarians, at their Jan. 17 regional meeting, were asked to vote for the "Bouquet" and "Brickbat" Awards recognizing acts and statements that promote liberty or threaten it.

Winner of the Bouquet Award was Dick Rutan of *Voyager* fame. In an interview after the historic flight, Rutan told the press:

In aviation this is . . . the last major event in atmospheric flight. To do this as an individual, a citizen, and not as a government, is to me more valuable than anything else. It says a lot for our country and how important our freedom is. If any do-gooder comes along and tries to tell you that your safety is more important than your freedom, you better watch out. The only way to be free is to be strong and protect it, because there's nothing more precious than your freedom."

The recipient of the Brickbat Award was state senator Wadie Deddeh for his "anti-pornography" legislation. Sen. Deddeh was instrumental in passing legislation that changed the legal definition of pornography from "utterly without redeeming social importance," to matter which, taken as a whole, "lacks significant literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value." Libertarians do not believe the government has any right to censor, and those at the meeting were quick to point out that under this definition most prime-time television should be banned.

Honorable mention for a Brickbat went to Assemblyman Peter Chacon for his "Positive Parenting" bill. Under this legislation, couples seeking a marriage license would be required to take a course in something called "positive parenting." Libertarian attendees were especially amused at this, because in addition to being a gross violation of individual rights, the state has enough trouble running its own affairs without trying to teach would-be-married couples how to run theirs.

Sen. Deddeh was chosen over Assemblyman Chacon to receive the coveted Brickbat Award because his legislation had passed, while the "positive parenting" bill died somewhere along the line.



In keeping with the spirit of the awards, Dick Rutan will receive a bouquet with a message of appreciation. Sen. Deddeh will receive a brickbat (about two-thirds of an actual brick) with a message of concern about our eroding freedom. Assemblyman Chacon will receive the remainder of the brick with a similar message.

From *The San Diego Libertarian*, the San Diego LP newsletter, February, 1987.

LPC Directory

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143/6

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State Officers

Chair, Mark Hinkle
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Northern Vice-Chair, Dennis Schlumpf
P.O. Box 39, Homewood, 95718 (916) 525-6202

Southern Vice-Chair, Laurel Fest
1350 Armadale, Los Angeles, 90042 (213) 254-1776

Secretary, Steve Kreuger
P.O. Box 3322, Huntington Beach, 92605

Treasurer, Jerry Douglas
4919 Alator Dr., Woodland Hills, 91364 (818) 340-8980



Libertarian Party
of California

1987 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature _____ Date _____

☐ California Membership (\$15) or ☐ Combined California & National Membership (\$30) ☐ Additional Donation \$ _____

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401 East Taylor St., San Jose, CA 95112. Thank you!

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Signature _____

Please make necessary corrections on above information.

LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda			Fred Foldvary	415/548-3776
Butte			Mark Sweany	916/345-9970
Contra Costa	Tue., Feb. 10	Speaker and Topic to be Announced	John Corl	415/223-4112
Fresno			Tim Salzer	209/233-4393
Kern			Craig Gifford	805/832-6231
Lake			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles Co. (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Thu., Wed. 11	Barbara Branden: Passion of Ayn Rand	Nancy Neale*	818/893-6884
-62, West L.A.	Wed., Feb. 18	Taylor Rhodes: Introduction to Libertarianism	Neal Donner	213/477-6462
-63, Foothills			Kim Goldsworthy	818/280-5644
-64, Central L.A.		No Meeting in February	Ted Brown	213/257-8922
-65, Downey	Wed., Feb. 11	Discussion: New Directions for Region 65	Lee Connelly	714/994-3256
-66, South Bay			Cullene Lang	213/595-6266
-67, East San Gabriel Valley			Gail Lightfoot	714/599-1627
Marin	Wed., Feb. 4	Jerry Gwathney: Everything to Know About the Greens	Dan Dougherty*	415/457-1411
Monterey			Bob Ratto	408/424-9346
Orange		No Meeting in February	Sharon Ayres	714/966-1211
Placer			Bruce Daniel	916/663-2568
Riverside	Thu., Feb. 19	Discussion: Audio Tape of Talk by John Hospers	Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento			Roger Pope	916/921-1776
San Bernardino	Thu., Feb. 19	See Riverside County	Brian Bishko	714/684-5218
San Diego	Tue., Feb. 10	Dale Scott: Design Your Own Tax Reform	Dick Rider*	619/276-7166
	Tue., Feb. 17	Business Meeting	Pat Wright	619/929-9510
San Diego (No. Co.)	Tue., Feb. 24	Ed Clark: Libertarians Effecting Social Change	Dick Rider*	619/276-7166
San Francisco			Jim Peron	415/864-0952
San Luis Obispo			Clyde Steele	805/541-8892
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara	Mon., Feb. 16	Joe Gallos: How Gov. Steals Children from Parents	B. J. Wagener*	805/925-7088
Santa Clara	Thu., Feb. 19	General Meeting at Taylor St. Headquarters	Dale Burrow	408/279-3733
Santa Cruz			Bill Anderson*	408/476-9753
Solano			Mark Moberg	707/864-1673
Sonoma	Tue., Feb. 17	Business and Organization Meeting	Jim Oglesby	707/823-5261
Tulare	Sats., 14 & 28	Discussion of a Libertarian Book: Title to be Determined	Vicky Daley	209/688-4159
Ventura	Thu., Feb. 5	Dinner and Discussion: Looking Ahead	George Hasara	805/525-6321
Yolo			Bryce Bigwood	916/758-7032

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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